

City Health

Mission. The mission of the locally funded component of the Health Department is to provide animal control services, licensing and inspection of swimming pools, and tobacco sales regulation.

The Environmental Health Division of the Community Health Department administers these functions.

Overview. The Animal Control section is responsible for animal control field activities and for operation of the Wichita Animal Shelter. The section protects the public by ensuring that dangerous or rabid animals are kept off the streets. The Division also protects animals in the community by enforcing laws and ordinances regarding animal cruelty and neglect.

Animal Control Officers respond to citizen calls regarding animal related problems. Officers pick up stray animals, issue summonses for leash law violations, remove dead animals, transport injured animals for emergency treatment, and investigate cruelty complaints in the City. In addition, officers investigate all animal bites in Sedgwick County and quarantine animals suspected of having rabies.

In 1999, more than 28,910 requests for animal control services were received in Wichita. The requests included 1,745 animal bite investigations, 773 animal cruelty investigations, and pickup of 678 injured animals.

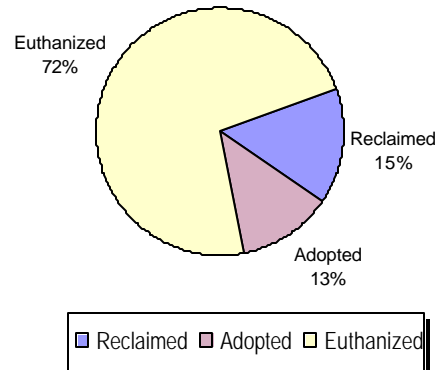


A Health Department employee cleans holding cages at the Shelter.

The Wichita Animal Shelter is the holding facility for all animals received from the City of Wichita, including stray animals held for a three day redemption period, quarantined rabies suspect animals and unwanted pets turned over by the public. Shelter services are provided under contract for animal control programs operated by Sedgwick County and for seven other area cities.

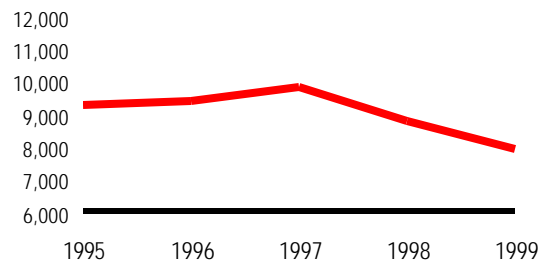
A pet adoption program is offered which requires a pre-payment for spaying and neutering. Responsible pet ownership is promoted with a public education program.

Animal Shelter Statistics - 1999



In 1999, the shelter held a total of 10,929 animals; this number included 5,400 stray dogs, 1,237 abandoned cats, 3,215 unwanted pets, 723 injured animals, and 764 rabies suspect animals. Of these, owners reclaimed 1,649 animals, 1,368 were adopted into new homes and 7,912 were euthanized.

Number of Animals Euthanized



The City Health Department conducts inspections of swimming pools and spas in the City, enforcing health and safety standards including pH and chlorine levels, water clarity, and the presence of safety equipment. Staff made 1,224 swimming pool and spa inspections in 1999 at 264 licensed pool/spa facilities.

Tobacco vendors operating within the City of Wichita are periodically evaluated by the Health Department to ensure licensing requirements are met. Volunteers are used for undercover tobacco sales compliance checks. In 1999, the City had a 81 percent compliance rate, which compares favorably to the 1998 level of 72.5 percent and to the statewide average of 65 percent. Health Department Staff also conduct a program to educate youth in the community about the negative consequences of smoking.

Seasonal personnel inspect properties for violation of the tall grass and weed ordinance, in addition to inspections of private lots for excessive trash. Property owners are notified of violations and

non-compliant properties are referred to a private contractor for mowing. Mowing and cleanup costs are billed to the property owner when possible.

Sedgwick County has withdrawn much of its share of funding for the City/County code enforcement function in 2001. The remaining City-only staff of the program are now funded in a new section of the City Health budget.

Finance and Operations. The seventeen year-old Animal Shelter is in need of extensive maintenance. An evaluation of the facility has been planned to more fully assess its condition and recommend options. One such option to be considered is a relocation of the shelter facility.



A puppy at the Animal Shelter hopes for a new home.

The City Animal Control section currently offers contracted field animal control services and animal shelter space to surrounding communities and Sedgwick County. Contracts are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure full cost recovery for the contracted services.

Financial Summary			
City Health Revenue Generation			
	1999	2000	2001
Animal control revenue	553,128	568,840	568,840
Food program revenue	22,152	23,000	23,000
Tobacco licenses	46,488	48,600	48,600
Spa/pool/hot tubs	21,439	22,000	22,000
Solid waste haulers	26,098	26,500	26,500
Revenue - all sources	669,305	688,940	688,940

City Health functions are supported by the General Fund with operational expenditures partially offset by program revenue. Animal control revenue includes dog license fees, animal shelter vouchers, animal boarding fees, fees charged to veterinarians for pickup of dead animals, revenue from animal-related citations, and revenue from services provided to Sedgwick County and surrounding communities. The Food Section receives revenue through enrollment fees for food safety courses offered to area food service employees. The tobacco sales enforcement function is partially supported by the sale of tobacco sales licenses. Inspection fees from inspections of pools, spas and hot tubs also contribute to the Department's revenue stream. In addition, the Department receives income from the sale of solid waste collector/hauler licenses.

Selected Performance Measures				
	1998	1999	2000	2001
Animals redeemed by owner or adopted	25.9%	27.7%	29.0%	29.8%
Animals euthanized	74.1%	72.3%	71.0%	70.2%

City Health Budget Summary					
	1999 Actual	2000 Adopted	2000 Revised	2001 Adopted	2002 Approved
Personal Services	704,747	832,460	803,550	986,670	1,077,910
Contractual Services	314,133	250,920	259,940	266,040	270,720
Commodities	41,230	39,010	38,250	38,760	40,590
Capital Outlay	10,823	11,250	8,810	4,450	9,550
Other	0	90,000	90,000	90,000	92,250
Total General Fund Expenditures	1,070,933	1,223,640	1,200,550	1,385,920	1,491,020
Position Summary					
Total full-time	20	20	20	24	25
Total part-time	9	9	9	9	9
Total FTE	22.75	22.75	22.75	26.75	27.75